

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Thomas R. McGuire House

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: 114 Rice Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Little Rock

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Pulaski

code: AR 119

zip code: 72205

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building(s)

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing

Noncontributing

2

1

3

 buildings

 sites

 structures

 objects

0 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National
Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

I, the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet

Cathryn A. Byrd
Signature of certifying official

11-4-91
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

____ entered in the National Register
____ See continuation sheet.

____ determined eligible for the
National Register

____ See continuation sheet.

____ determined not eligible for the
National Register

____ removed from the National Register

____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Domestic

Sub: Single Dwelling

Current: Domestic

Sub: Single Dwelling

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7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

Colonial Revival

Other Description: _____

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Slate
walls Concrete Block other Steel

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1904-1915 _____

Significant Dates : N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: McGuire, Thomas R.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings' Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- X State historic preservation office
 - Other state agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 15 564090 3845360 B
C D

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ____ See continuation sheet.

Lot 4, Block 4, Capitol View Addition to the City of Little Rock.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this historic resource.

11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Mark Christ, Public Information Officer

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 10/25/91

Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

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Summary

The T.R. McGuire House is a one-and-one-half story, cast-concrete block residence on a poured concrete foundation with a partial basement. It features a hipped slate roof with gabled bays projecting from each elevation. The house is designed in a vernacular interpretation of the Colonial Revival style.

Elaboration

The T.R. McGuire House is a one-and-one-half story, cast-concrete block residence on a continuous poured concrete foundation built on a rectangular plan in a vernacular design with Colonial Revival details. The hipped roof and ridge of each gable are topped by metal cresting. A dentil course runs below the cornice all the way around the structure.

The eastern or front facade consists of a gabled roof segment on the north end, a flat-roofed, wrap-around porch extending around the south elevation, a dormer with pediment, a projecting porch pediment, and a brick chimney turned 45 degrees to serve fireboxes in four interior rooms. The porch is supported by three cast-iron and metal Greek Ionic columns with molded clay Doric capitals. Poured concrete steps lead to a concrete sidewalk; an iron boot scrape is set in the bottom step. The north gable/pediment and adjacent dormer feature two windows, each with a leaded glass frame set above a stationary single pane. The facade of each pediment is clad in slate, as is the entire roof. The dormer is capped with a pediment and a dentil course runs below the cornice. A single window, also with a leaded glass window atop a stationary pane, is set in the north end of the east elevation; another stationary leaded glass window is set on the south wall facing the porch. Two tall sidelights are set adjacent to the front door, which has a large glass pane set into it; a leaded glass transom sits atop the door surrounds. All of the casing is oak. A large stone lintel tops the arrangement. The porch has a pressed tin ceiling and its floor is covered in unglazed tile.

The southern elevation includes the rest of the wrap-around porch and a protruding three-sided, gable-roof topped bay. There is one double-hung window on the porch facing south; it features a leaded glass pane over a single pane. A door with two large frames of glass is set in the bay opening onto the porch. A double-hung, one-over-one window is set in the southern and southeastern sides of the bay; two more double-hung, one-over-one windows, featuring single leaded-glass panes, are set in the wall west of the bay.

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The western elevation features a gable with twin two-over-two windows inset in a wooden casing. The gable/pediment is covered in slate. An almost-full, flat-roofed poured concrete rear porch is supported by four square metal posts with plain metal capitals. A one-over-one, double-hung window is set in the southern end of the elevation, just off the porch. Two doors open onto the back porch; the northern-most door has leaded glass, the other a single pane. Another one-over-one, double-hung window at the northern end of the porch finishes the rear elevation; there is an air conditioner set in that window. There is also a concrete cistern under the north end of the porch that was used to hold rainwater when the home was first built.

The northern facade features a half porch supported by two smaller columns identical to those on the front porch. It has a flat roof, a pressed-tin ceiling, and a mosaic tile floor. There also is a storage area beneath the porch. The wall projects slightly just west of the porch. This gabled bay features two leaded glass windows atop two single panes of glass within the pediment and three double-hung, one-over-one windows separated by concrete half columns with Ionic capitals at the first-floor level. The central window of the three is slightly wider and has leaded glass in its top pane. Just west of this arrangement is another pair of double-hung, one-over-one windows separated by a similar half column.

The interior walls are constructed of beaverboard; the kitchen walls, now covered by paneling, are encased in sheet metal to protect them from the heat of stove and oven. Several rooms have pressed tin ceilings. All of the interior trim is oak, as is much of the tongue-and-groove flooring. One striking feature is a beveled glass door to a closet opposite the bathroom door. There are pocket doors between the dining room and the front bedroom. The house also features several hand-made brass light fixtures - originally gas, but later reworked for electricity.

The exterior of the house is virtually unaltered. The structure is in good condition.

There also is a rectangular cast-concrete block garage behind the house. It has a gabled asphalt shingle roof added in the 1970's to replace the original, which had a cupola. There are a pair of concrete steps leading to the site of another outbuilding that is no longer there. Adjacent is a concrete and stone bird bath and a filled fish pond constructed by the owner's brother when they were children.

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Summary

Criterion C, local significance

The T.R. McGuire House is unique by virtue of its being a relatively high-style interpretation of the Colonial Revival style rendered in hand-crafted or locally-manufactured materials by T.R. McGuire, a master machinist with the Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad. It is the finest example of this particular architectural style in this turn-of-the-century neighborhood.

Elaboration

Capitol View Addition, located just west of the Arkansas State Capitol (which was then under construction), was platted Feb. 29, 1904 on land formerly owned by Logan H. Roots. The addition contained land between Markham, Fourth Street, Park Street, and Thayer Street. It was located south of the Pulaski Heights area that was then undergoing development and mirrored the gradual westward expansion of the City of Little Rock. The land was platted by the Capitol View Land Co. on Feb. 29, 1904, the plat was filed March 1, 1904, and Thomas R. McGuire began digging the foundation for his home on Lot 4, Block 4 of the addition in June 1904.

Thomas R. McGuire was born in Anniston, Alabama, in 1882. He moved to Little Rock in 1898 when he went to work for the Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad. He remained with the railroad for 24 years.

McGuire was a master machinist when he began building the house at 114 Rice Street from his own plans, and his skills with metal lathes and other metal-working equipment are evident throughout the house. The columns on the front and side porches, as well as the simpler posts on the back porch, are all made of metal. The walls of the kitchen also are lined with metal to protect them from the heat of the kitchen appliances. There are two brass light fixtures suspended from the ceiling in the entry foyer and the dining room that McGuire made himself, originally for gas and later reworked for electricity.

McGuire, who was in his mid-20's at the time, erected the entire house virtually single-handedly; his son says he had help installing the massive stone lintel above the front door and erecting the A-frames for the roof. Beyond that, he poured the concrete for the bricks from an immense vat in the front yard, he used clay and molds to form the capitols for the front and side porches, and he installed the oak wood work inside the structure. He cut the slate for the roof and the facade himself. He also worked out a system to catch rain running off the roof, channelling it through a sand-and-charcoal filter system to a holding tank at the north end of the

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back porch that served the family's water needs until city water was installed some time later.

McGuire and his wife, Ollie, lived on the now-defunct Riverside Drive while he was building 114 Rice. By 1906, the shell of the building was complete and the McGuires moved in, first living in the back bedroom and kitchen areas as the rest of the house was slowly finished out. Two children were born in that bedroom: Thomas Jr. on July 13, 1907, and R.W. on Dec. 23, 1910.

The building was substantially finished by 1915 with completion of the front living room and the entry foyer, but other work continued afterward: R.W. McGuire recalls his brother, then 11, placing the tiles on the front porch.

The house has been owned by the McGuire family ever since its construction, though they have rented it out on several occasions. They lived for a period on Barton Street, which lies two blocks east of Rice Street, after McGuire completed construction of a house there. He also operated the Capitol View Grocery there.

The house was rented out during the 1930's and 40's; R.W. McGuire took up residence in 1956. He and his wife, Verna, still live there today.

Thomas McGuire left the railroad in 1922 when Iron Mountain and Southern workers went on strike and he decided to go into business for himself. "He wanted something steady," R.W. McGuire explained.

McGuire operated the T.R. McGuire and Son Grocery from 1922 to 1926 at 9th and Chester and opened the Capitol View Grocery in 1926 on the southwest corner of Barton and Markham. That business initially operated out of a wood-frame structure. McGuire replaced the building with a two-story concrete and brick structure constructed in 1929-30 which housed the grocery, a drug store, barber and beauty shops, and three upstairs apartments. The grocery operated until 1966, when the building was torn down.

The T.R. McGuire House at 114 Rice Street remains a significant accomplishment in vernacular architecture, with its rendition of the Colonial Revival vocabulary in heavy concrete, and deserves nomination under Criterion C with local significance.

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Bibliography

Interview with R.W. McGuire, March 28, 1991.

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